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HAVANA FILM FESTIVAL NEW YORK ANNOUNCES FILMS COMPETING FOR THE HAVANA STAR PRIZE

TWENTY-ONE FILMS WILL COMPETE IN FICTION AND DOCUMENTARY

New York City, March 17, 2011. The Havana Film Festival New York will award the **Havana Star Prize for Best Film, Best Director, Best Screenplay in Fiction**, and, for the first time, the **Havana Star Prize for Best Documentary**. The awards will be given at the **Closing Night Ceremony, April 15, at 7 pm** at the **New York Directors Guild Theatre 110 West 57th Street**. Internationally renowned Cuban artist Yoan Capote designed the *Havana Star Prize* especially for HFFNY. The recipients will be chosen by six prominent members of the film industry, Australian director **Antonio Tibaldi** (*On My Own, Running Against, Little Boy Blue, Claudine's Return*); **Maria Marta Antin**, director of Talent Campus Buenos Aires and Director of Continuing Education Universidad del Cine (FUC); film editor **Irene Blecua** (*Map of the Sounds of Tokyo, The Secret Life of Words, Rosario Tijeras*); **Rodrigo Brandao**, Head of Publicity Department at Kino Lober distribution company; director and producer **Greta Schiller** (*Before Stonewall, Paris Was a Woman, The Man Who Drove With Mandela*); and NYU professor **Patricio Navia**.

The films in competition are:

FICTION

- **Afinidades** Director Vladimir Cruz, Jorge Perugorria (Cuba)
- **Alucinados / Riding High** Director Roberto Santucci (Brazil)
- **Boleto al paraíso / Ticket to Paradise** Director Gerardo Chijona (Cuba)
- **Casa vieja / Old House** Director Lester Hamlet (Cuba)
- **Como esquecer / So Hard to Forget** Director Malu Martino (Brazil)
- **Corazón del tiempo / Heart of Time** Director Alberto Cortés (Mexico)
- **El regreso de Lencho / The Return of Lencho** Director Mario Rosales (Guatemala)
- **Gestación / Gestation** Director Esteban Ramirez (Costa Rica)
- **Lisanka** Director Daniel Diaz Torres (Cuba)
- **Los colores de la montaña / The Colors of the Mountain** Director Carlos C. Arbelaez (Colombia)
- **Prometeo deportado / Deporting Prometeo** Director Fernando Mieles (Ecuador)
- **Qué pena tu vida / F*** My Life** Director Nicolás Lopez
- **Te extraño / I Miss You** Director Fabian Hofman (Argentina-Mexico)
- **Viaje Redondo / Round Trip** Director Gerardo Tort (Mexico)

DOCUMENTARY

1. **Blattángelus** Director Araceli Santana (Mexico)
2. **Interactivo, la película / Interactivo, the Movie** Director Tané Martinez (Cuba-U.S.)
3. **Newen Mapuche: La fuerza de la gente de la tierra / Newen Mapuche: the force of the people from the land** Director Elena Varela (Chile)
4. **La Salsa Cubana** Director Eric Johnson, Sarita Streng

5. **Los rostros detrás de las muñecas / The Faces Behind the Dolls** Director Freddy Vargas (Dominican Republic-U.S)
6. **Operation Peter Pan: Flying Back to Cuba / Operación Peter Pan: Cerrando el círculo en Cuba** Director Estela Bravo (U.S.)
7. **Robatierra / Stolen Land** Director Margarita Martinez, Miguel Salazar

From **April 7 – 15**, HFFNY will screen over 53 highly anticipated and influential films from 17 countries. The Festival has grown into an inter-cultural forum, bringing together dedicated filmgoers, artists, filmmakers, institutions, and emerging organizations from Latin America, the U.S., and the Caribbean.

The presenting sponsor of HFFNY 2011 is NBC / Telemundo 47. Additional sponsorship is provided by El Diario La Prensa, The National Arts Club, WNYC/WQXR, TD Bank, Latino Artists Round Table (LART), Xael Charters, U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce, Delta Airlines, Pie Derecho, Business Latino, the Mexican Cultural Institute of New York, NALIP, Havana-Cultura.com, Rockamedia, Copacabana Pizza & Grill, Giovanna's, Brazil Grill, Il Buco, El Sombrero, Cuban Visions, and Two Boots. Official hotels are the Maritime Hotel and the Bowery Hotel.

HFFNY is made possible with public funds from the NYS Council on the Arts, a state agency and supported in part by public funds from the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs. Mayor Bloomberg's Latin Media and Entertainment Commission (LMEC) supports the festival.

The Havana Film Festival New York is a project of American Friends of the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba (AFLFC), a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization building cultural bridges between the U.S. and Cuba through programs in the arts.

For a complete schedule of events and venues, please log on to www.hffny.com

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JURY BIOS

Fiction

Irene Blecua

An internationally renowned film editor from Spain. She studied at UCLA and NYU specializing in sound and image from the San Ignacio Polytechnic Institute. She recently edited *Tres metros sobre el cielo* by Fernando González Molina, which became the highest grossing Spanish film of 2010. She also worked with Isabel Coixet on the films *Map of the Sounds of Tokyo* and *The Secret Life of Words*, as well as the documentary *Viaje al corazón de la tortura*.

María Marta Antin

An architect who studied at the University of Buenos Aires (UBA), she also holds a Master's Degree in Communications Management from Austral University. She heads the communications department for the Universidad del Cine, where she is responsible for the promotion of the University's productions both locally and abroad. She is also the director of the Buenos Aires Talent Campus, an event organized in cooperation with the Berlin International Film Festival - Berlinale Talent Campus and the Buenos Aires International Independent Film Festival (BAFICI).

Antonio Tibaldi

Born in Australia and raised in Europe, Tibaldi has directed five feature films: *On My Own*, *Correre Contro (Running Against)*, *Little Boy Blue*, *Claudine's Return*, *Lupomannaro*. For the

past seven years, he has collaborated with United Nations' Dept. of Public Information, making documentaries in remote parts of the world to shed light and raise awareness on some of the most under-reported realities in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. He teaches Film and Video at City College, New York.

Documentary

Greta Schiller

Schiller is an independent award-winning director and producer of documentaries for television and film. Her career was launched in 1984 with the theatrical release and PBS broadcast of her first feature documentary film, *Before Stonewall*. Now considered a classic, the film won two Emmy Awards. Her highly acclaimed feature-length documentary, *Paris Was a Woman*, premiered at the London and Berlin Film Festivals and won many awards. It was released theatrically in the U.S., Germany, Spain and Great Britain, breaking house records in several cities. She is co-founder of Jezebel Productions, based in London and New York.

Patricio Navia

Navia is a master teacher of global cultures in the Liberal Studies Program and adjunct assistant professor in the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at New York University (NYU). He is also a researcher and Associate Professor at the Facultad de Ciencias Sociales at Universidad Diego Portales in Chile. He holds a Ph.D. in Politics from NYU and an M.A. in Political Science from the University of Chicago. His books *El discolo. Conversaciones con Marco Enríquez-Ominami* (2009), *Que gane el más mejor: Mérito y Competencia en el Chile de hoy* (co-authored with Eduardo Engel, 2006), and *Las grandes alamedas: El Chile post Pinochet* (2004) have been best sellers in Chile.

Rodrigo Brandão

Brandão is Director of Publicity at Kino Lorber Inc and the editor of BrazilNYC.com, a blog focused on Brazilian culture and events in New York City. He has taught workshops on film publicity and distribution for Raindance New York, the Brazilian Film Festival in Miami and the Finger Lakes Environmental Film Festival (FLEFF) in Ithaca, NY. He also blogs for FLEFF's Latin American Spaces.